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14 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Briefing Congress on SALT
Preparations

1. I forward a copy of the memorandum to Secretary Rogers, Dr. Kissinger, and Mr. Bryce Harlow from Gerard Smith on the discussion of SALT with Congressional leaders.

2. The memorandum sets up three optional plans for briefing Congressional leaders on SALT. In each plan, the Director of Central Intelligence is slated to speak on the verification aspects of any arms agreement.

3. Plan I--the one recommended by Gerry Smith and concurred in by Mr. Rogers--calls for two briefings at the White House under the chairmanship of the President. The first briefing would take place while NAC consultations are going on and before final NSC consideration, with 21 July suggested as a likely date. After introductory remarks by President Nixon, presentations would be made as follows:

--Strategic balance	Laird, Wheeler
--Summary of SALT preparations	G. Smith
--Summary of alternatives considered	G. Smith
-- Verification	Helms
--Some problems anticipated and planned responses	Rogers, Smith

The second White House briefing would take place after final NSC action, after the President returns,

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and before talks begin, perhaps the first week of August. Mr. Smith would summarize the major features of the approach the US will make to the USSR. Mr. Helms and others will be present to comment.

4. Plan II is essentially the same--a White House briefing with the same panel presentations--except it would be a one-shot operation coming after final NSC action and after the President returns, about the first week of August.

5. A total of 30 Congressional leaders are identified in Annex A to be briefed under Plans I and II.

6. Plan III cuts the number of Congressmen and Senators to be briefed to 17 and undertakes to meet with them in their offices on the Hill, preferably in small groups. Implementation of this Plan--"a poor third"--would come immediately following final NSC action on 23 July.

7. I believe that the Director's presentation to the NSC on monitoring forms a good basis for a presentation to the Congressional leaders. The exact form probably cannot be decided until the Plan and timing are known. If, under Plan I, the various SALT Alternatives are presented, we would tailor the briefing to reflect this. If, under Plan II, the briefing comes after NSC action is completed and the US approach has been decided, the briefing would concentrate on the specifics of the US proposal.

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BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

Attachment:

Memo from Gerard Smith
on the discussion of
SALT with Congressional
leaders.

Distribution:

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